

A Poem for Today

A DESIRE

By Susan M. Spaulding



Let me not lay the lightest feather's weight
Of duty upon Love. Let not, my own,
The breath of one reluctant kiss be blown
Between our hearts. I would not be the gate
That bars, like some inexorable fate,
The portals of thy life—that says, "Alone
Through me shall any joy to thee be known."
Rather the window, fragrant early and late
With thy sweet, clinging thoughts, that grow and twine
Around me, like some bright and blooming vine
Through which the sun shall shed his wealth on thee
In golden showers; through which thou may'st look out
Sitting in all beauty, without doubt
Or fear or shadow of regret from me.

HUNTING A GAS LEAK.

How to Look For One and Prevent Serious Damage.

The folly of hunting for a leak in a gas pipe with a lighted match is not so much because of the danger of an explosion as of other damage, as is shown by the experience of a West Philadelphia householder, says the Philadelphia Record.

One or two small leaks were detected by going over all the pipes and holding a lighted match to them. The smell of gas ceased, but was replaced a few hours later by the smell of burning wood. Another visit to the cellar showed a charred floor joist a little distance above a gas pipe. There was no apparent cause for this until a very close examination disclosed that a tiny jet of gas was issuing from the pipe beneath the beam. It was lighted, but was so small as to be blue in color and nearly invisible. It had been lighted by the match used in the first investigation, but had not been noticed.

"If that leak had happened to be in a lead joint instead of an iron connection," said a gas man, "there would probably have been work for the fire department. The smallest possible jet of lighted gas issuing through lead will in time heat and melt the lead and make the leak larger, until a big flame is issuing. This may make a fire hours later, in the dead of night or at a time when no one is in the house. The only proper way to look for these very small leaks is to paint the suspected pipe with a smooth soap lather. Just as in the case of a bicycle tire the thinnest leak will blow a bubble in the lather, and there you are."

How to Keep Guns in Good Shape.

In caring for guns they must have attention occasionally throughout the entire year, says a correspondent of *Outing*. I take it for granted that your gun gets a good cleaning every time it is used, but this won't do for gun preservation all the time. Get some one of the popular gun oils or grease (all of them are good) and with a soft wiper coat the inside of the barrel well, then wipe the outside likewise with an oiled rag and put the barrels in the case without finger marks in the grease, if possible, for salt perspiration is a hungry eater of steel. The stock may be cleaned for scratches and these same required. The firing mechanism should be well oiled and the whole put away like the barrels, without finger marks if possible. But don't imagine this is going to be enough of care for ten months or six months or one month even, or you are likely to find a sadly disfigured shooting iron when next you look at it. Heat will run the grease off from some part or other, dampness seems to have a way of penetrating the thickest oil, and if these things happen rust is bound to make blots on a finely finished surface. Spend an evening every other week at least looking over the guns.

How to Waterproof Boots.

Put a pound of tallow and half a pound of resin in a pot on the fire; when melted and mixed warm the boots and apply the hot stuff with a painter's brush until neither the sole nor the upper leather will suck in any more, says the *New York Journal*. If it is desired that the boots should immediately take a polish, melt an ounce of wax with a teaspoonful of lampblack. A day after the boots have been treated with tallow and resin rub over them this wax in turpentine, but not before the fire. The exterior will then have a coat of wax alone and will shine like a mirror. Tallow or any other grease becomes rancid and rots the stitching as well as leather, but the resin gives it an antiseptic quality which preserves the whole.

How to Bleach Muslin.

Muslin may be bleached by wetting it thoroughly and then spreading it out on the grass in the sun, says the *St. Louis Republic*. Repeat this as often as necessary, or try javelle water. This useful mixture is sold by most druggists, but it is not difficult to make and is much less expensive when prepared at home.

Every laundress should use it, as it is very efficacious in keeping table linen and children's white clothes free from fruit stains. A small teacupful of the fluid added to a boiler of water will assist materially in keeping the clothes white and will not injure them in the least.

How to Destroy Small of Pains.

Paint smell, so injurious to health, is easily removed from a room by standing in it a pall of cold water containing a large handful of hay or a cut onion or two, says the *Washington Star*. The water alone would answer the purpose, but not so quickly as with the addition of the hay or onions. Leave the pall in the room for some hours, and then, if the painty smell still lingers, throw away its contents, fill it as before and leave it to flush its work.

How to Use a Watch as a Compass.
To use a watch as a compass is a simple matter, says the *Kansas City Journal*. Point the hour hand to the

TRAPPER FIGHTS
PACK OF WOLVESAN UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE
IN THE MICHIGAN WOODS.

PURSUED BY THE BEASTS

Lone Hunter Finally Makes a Stand
and with His Faithful Carbine
Slays Three, Scaring the
Remainder.

Bronson, Mich.—During last winter the snow fell to a great depth in nearly all of the northern counties, and in those counties infested by wolves the havoc to deer was great.

Many deer carcasses partly devoured, and some with only the polished and cleanly picked bones remaining, were found by settlers and trappers.

The wolves became terribly pressed by hunger during the winter, the intense cold seeming to whet their appetites to a frenzy, and woe to anything devourable which crossed their trail.

It was in midwinter, when the snow was deepest and the cold most intense, that a well-known trapper in one of the western counties of the upper peninsula had a very exciting adventure and one perhaps which he would not care to have repeated.

All day he had tramped over the snow on his snow shoes, and a big snowstorm of several days previous had covered up his traps, and in some instances covered to a depth of several feet his catch of animals, which had delayed him, and night was fast approaching and he had yet many weary miles on the trail before he would reach the cheery warmth and light of his cabin, where his brother Franc was waiting for him.

Around him lay a world of whiteness—a world of snow; only the dark gray clouds above and the somber darkness of the forest background bereft the scene. He pushed forward his tired and stiffened limbs already beginning to sting and pain from the fatigue of the long day's journey. At length he comes out of the shadow of a piece of broken wood and descends a gentle slope—a lake lies before him.

Now he is upon the smooth surface of the lake, and as the walking is much better, he mentally decides he can make much better time across the ice than on the land. Suddenly his trained ear detects the sound of a footfall, the faint snapping of a twig behind him on the shore a few yards distant, and as he involuntarily turns his head to look in the direction of the sound, fitting figures bound into sight from the shadows of the woods.

He needs no second glance to tell him his pursuers are wolves, nor does he hesitate to act. Across his shoulder is suspended by strap a 30-30 carbine, which is his daily companion as he goes to his traps.

RETURNED TO MAIN OFFICE.



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Carnegie Increases Gift to Richmond. Richmond, Va., March 14.—Andrew Carnegie, who arrived here en route for Hot Springs, Va., gave \$10,000 to the Railroad Y. M. C. A. here and increased his library offer to the city by \$100,000, making it \$200,000.



HE KEPT HIS CARBINE BUSY.

It was but the work of an instant to stop, turn about and unstring the little carbine. On come the wolves, a large, ferocious-looking gaunt dog wolf leading the pack, his limp tongue protruding from massive ugly jaws, and his greenish fiery eyes gleaming in the dim light.

The trapper has coolly dropped upon his left knee to steady his gun, and as the big wolf trails toward him he takes a careful aim and fires. The wolf plunges forward and falls, but is followed by another close behind him which takes the wounded leader's place. Again the little carbine cracks and another wolf falls in the snow. Still another wolf presses towards the cool trapper, but when he approaches the spot where the second wolf fell, he stops, hesitates and before he can bound away, the deadly little carbine again speaks and another wolf is added to the trapper's bounty list.

One plucky stand taken by the trapper and the downfall of three of their pack seemed to have scared the remainder of the pack, which turned tail and fled towards the forest, the little carbine being kept busy throwing lead among them as they flew over the snow. There were at least a dozen full-grown wolves in the pack, three of which fell to the deadly aim of the trapper on the ice.

Reloading his faithful gun, the hardy trapper resumed his way, treading the trail in unerring skill and long after the shadows had encircled him in the gloom and darkness of the woods, his familiar footfall was greeted at the threshold of his own cabin by the cheery and welcome voice of his brother, Franc, and an hour later he was sitting in his snug corner of warm skins, the clouds of blue smoke filling the room, while before a blazing fire in the big stove he related to Franc the adventures of the day.

His One Request.

"I may lunch with you in town to-day," she said. "To-morrow is your birthday, and I am going to buy you a present."

A troubled look came into the poor fellow's eyes as he said, gently: "Let it be something inexpensive, won't you, dear? I haven't paid for my Christmas present yet."—*Cassell's Journal*.



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